

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: COMBINED WIRE/RADIO-TV TRAVELING PRESS REPORT:
OCTOBER 25, 1974

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS

NO. 8

WIRES:

UPI (NO BYLINE) LEAD DECLARES HAK IN FIVE HOURS (TWO SESSIONS) OF TALKS WITH BREZ "SOUGHT AGREEMENT LEADING TO MAJOR ARMS RACE SLOWDOWN." STATES US OFFICIALS SAID HAK "ATTEMPTING A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH" ON LIMITING MIRV MISSILES, DECELERATING MISSILE REPLACEMENT, AND CONTROLLING STRATEGIC BOMBERS -- A BREAKTHROUGH SIMILAR TO SOV-US COMPROMISE OF MAY 1971. LISTS AS POINTS FOR WHICH HAK SEEKING BREZ AGREEMENT ON SET OF PRINCIPLES AS: LIMITS ON MIRVED MISSILE DEPLOYMENTS; LIMITS ON BOTH SIDES' ABILITY TO REPLACE OBSOLETE MISSILE SYSTEMS WITH IMPROVED TECHNOLOGY; CONTROLS ON SIZES OF STRATEGIC BOMBER FORCES; AND EXCLU-
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SION OF US FORWARD-BASED SYSTEMS IN EUROPE FROM GENEVA

DISARMAMENT TALKS. ACCORDING TO THESE OFFICIALS, HAK FEELS AGREEMENT ON SPECIFICS -- NUMBERS OF MISSILES AND WARHEADS -- WOULD FOLLOW FAIRLY EASILY ONCE AGREEMENT IS REACHED ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE THE GENEVA TALKS. UPI QUOTES ANDERSON CHARACTERIZING FIRST SESSION OF DAY AS "VERY CORDIAL, VERY FRIENDLY," AND ADDS "SENIOR US OFFICIAL" STATED HAK-BREZ DISCUSSED DISARMAMENT IDEAS FOR THE SALT TALKS. IN SUBSEQUENT ADD-ON, UPI QUOTES SPARCELY FROM OFFICIAL JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED AT DAY'S END.

AP (SCHWEID) REPORT STATES HAK DELIVERED TO BREZ "CONCRETE" NUCLEAR WEAPONS LIMITATION PROPOSALS IN ATTEMPT TO BREAK NEGOTIATING LOGJAM. USES "VERY FRIENDLY AND VERY CORDIAL" QUOTE BUT ADDS IMMEDIATELY THAT THERE WAS NOTHING OFFICIAL ON WHETHER HAK MAKING ANY PROGRESS TOWARD UNDERSTANDING ON GUIDELINES. SAYS SOVS ARE "EAGER TO ASSESS PRES FORD FIRST-HAND," AND HAK HOPES THERE IS SUFFICIENT "INCENTIVE TO ACHIEVE THE CONCEPTUAL BREAKTHROUGH" THAT ELUDED HIM IN MARCH AND AT SUMMER SUMMIT. STATES FORD AND BREZ "WOULD RATIFY THE GUIDELINES" IN VLAD AROUND THANKSGIVING, WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO SALT NEGOTIATORS TO PRODUCE A TREATY BY THE END OF 1975. SCHWEID CONCLUDES: "US OFFICIALS SUGGESTED PRIVATELY" THAT SOV LEADERSHIP "WERE RELUCTANT TO REACH AN AGREEMENT DURING NIXON'S LAST MONTHS BECAUSE THEY WERE UNCERTAIN IT WOULD BE SUPPORTED BY THE SUCCEEDING ADMINISTRATION. FORD'S PUBLIC ENDORSEMENTS OF KISSINGER ARE INTENDED BOTH TO SHORE UP THE SECRETARY'S AUTHORITY AND TO SIGNAL THE SOVIETS OF FORD'S INTENTIONS."

RADIO:

KALB, IN SEVERAL CBS RADIO SPOTS MONITORED DURING THE DAY, SAID HAK PREFERS NEXT PHASE OF SALT TALKS TO FOCUS ON CONTROLLING MIRVS. "THE TRICK IN THIS NEGOTIATION IS TO FASHION A PROPER BALANCE BETWEEN MIRVS AND MISSILES SO THAT EACH SIDE GETS A FAIR SHARE OF NUCLEAR SECURITY, IF THERE IS SUCH A THING . . . KISSINGER ALSO WANTS TO PUT A CEILING ON THE TOTAL NUMBER OF MISSILE LAUNCHERS EACH SIDE CAN HAVE; 2,000 IS ONE FIGURE DISCUSSED." KALB TERMED "WHAT WAS CALLED A REASONABLY CONCRETE IDEA" WHICH UNCLASSIFIED

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HAK PRESENTED TO BREZ AS ACTUALLY "A TENTATIVE AMERICAN PROPOSAL." KALB CONCLUDED ONE REPORT: "... THE SUGGESTION HERE IS THAT THEY (THE TALKS) ARE GOING TOUGH."

TV:

ABC (23 MINUTES INTO PROGRAM): -REASONER:-;"SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER, IN MOSCOW, DELIVERED SPECIFIC PROPOSALS

TO SOVIET LEADER LEONID BREZHNEV ON LIMITING NUCLEAR ARMS. BOTH SIDES SAID THE DETAILED CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO THE PROPOSALS WAS USEFUL."

NBC: CHANCELLOR LEAD BROADCAST AS FOLLOWS: "THE UNITED STATES HAS TAKEN A SIGNIFICANT STEP TOWARDS THE POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF AN AIRBORNE BALLISTIC MISSILE SYSTEM. YESTERDAY, HIGH ABOVE THE PACIFIC OCEAN, AN AIR FORCE C-5A CARGO PLANE DROPPED A MINUTEMAN MISSILE WEIGHING 43 TONS OUT ITS REAR DOOR. WHEN THE MISSILE WAS CLEAR OF THE PLANE, ITS ENGINE WAS IGNITED, AND IT WENT ON A SHORT TEST FLIGHT.

"THIS HAS FAR-REACHING IMPLICATIONS. UNTIL NOW, INTER-CONTINENTAL MISSILES HAVE BEEN LAUNCHED FROM GROUND SILOS AND SUBMARINES. IF GUIDANCE PROBLEMS CAN BE OVERCOME, THIS MEANS THAT THE UNITED STATES COULD HAVE "LAUNCHING PADS IN THE AIR," MOVING AT HUNDREDS OF MILES AN HOUR, VERY DIFFICULT FOR THE RUSSIANS TO DETECT AND THEREFORE, STRATEGICALLY, VERY IMPORTANT.

"THERE'S NO WAY OF JUDGING NOW WHAT THE KREMLIN'S REACTION WILL BE, BUT SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER WAS IN THE KREMLIN TODAY, PRESENTING CONCRETE PROPOSALS ON ARMS LIMITATIONS TO THE RUSSIANS. IF THE RUSSIANS BROUGHT UP THE POSSIBILITY OF A NEW AMERICAN MISSILE DELIVERY TECHNIQUE, IT WASN'T ANNOUNCED. KISSINGER'S DISCUSSIONS WERE DESCRIBED TODAY AS "USEFUL," BUT AT THE SAME TIME, THE OVERALL RUSSIAN RECEPTION FOR KISSINGER HAS NOT BEEN WHAT IT USUALLY IS."

VALERIANI STAND-UPPER BY SATELLITE: "THE SOVIET RECEPTION FOR KISSINGER HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT PUZZLING. THE COVERAGE UNCLASSIFIED

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IN THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS HAS BEEN RESTRAINED, IN CONTRAST TO THE EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY GIVEN TO HIS VISIT HERE LAST MARCH. THERE HAVE BEEN NO PICTURES AT ALL OF HIS MEETINGS WITH SOVIET LEADER BREZHNEV, REPORTEDLY ON ORDERS FROM BREZHNEV HIMSELF.

"SUCH DECISIONS ALMOST ALWAYS HAVE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE IN THE SOVIET UNION, BUT THE MEANING OF THIS ONE IS NOT YET CLEAR. DESPITE THE SUBDUED PRESS COVERAGE, AMERICAN OFFICIALS INSIST THAT THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE KISSINGER-BREZHNEV TALKS THEMSELVES HAS BEEN VERY CORDIAL. BUT THE RUSSIANS ARE USING THE WORD "BUSINESSLIKE" TO DESCRIBE THE MOOD. WHATEVER THE DESCRIPTION OF THE ATMOSPHERE, THE MOST ACCURATE GAUGE FOR EVALUATING THIS MISSION WILL BE PROGRESS TOWARD AN AGREEMENT ON LIMITING OFFENSIVE

NUCLEAR WEAPONS, THE CENTRAL ISSUE OF THE KISSINGER-BREZHNEV DIALOGUE.

"IF THERE IS SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ON NUCLEAR ARMS, HOWEVER, ANY ANNOUNCEMENT WILL PROBABLY BE SAVED FOR THE MEETING BETWEEN BREZHNEV AND PRESIDENT FORD, WHICH IS NOW EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE IN VLADIVOSTOK, LATE NEXT MONTH."

CBS: AFTER LEADING WITH SEPARATE FEATURES ON RABAT ARAB SUMMIT AND ATTITUDES ON THE WEST BANK, CRONKITE DISCUSSED DOD ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE C-5A/MINUTEMAN MISSILE TEST. CRONKITE CONTINUED: "INCIDENTALLY, TWO YEARS AGO IN ARMS LIMITATION TALKS, THE US WANTED TO PROHIBIT MOBILE MISSILES BUT THE SOVIETS WOULDN'T AGREE. SO US NEGOTIATORS SOFTENED THEIR STANCE TO SIMPLY SAY THAT DEPLOYING MOBILE MISSILES WOULD VIOLATE THE SPIRIT OF THE PRESENT ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT. THE PENTAGON SAID IT WAS COINCIDENTAL THAT THE TEST CAME EVEN AS SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER WAS SITTING DOWN IN MOSCOW TO TALK OF SLOWING DOWN THE ARMS RACE."

KALB (ON CAMERA): "FOR KISSINGER THIS WAS THE DAY FOR SALT. HIS FIRST DETAILED TALK WITH BREZHNEV ABOUT STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS. KISSINGER PRESENTED WHAT ONE SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL HERE CALLED 'SOME REASONABLY CONCRETE IDEAS' -- IN OTHER WORDS, A TENTATIVE AMERICAN PROPOSAL. UNCLASSIFIED

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CENTRAL TO THE PROPOSAL IS MIRV, THE ABILITY TO FIRE A CLUSTER OF NUCLEAR WARHEADS FROM THE NOSE-CONE OF A SINGLE MISSILE AND TO TARGET EACH WARHEAD SEPARATELY AND ACCURATELY. KISSINGER WANTS TO LIMIT THE DEPLOYMENT OF MIRV'S AND TO PUT DEFINITE CEILINGS ON THE NUMBER OF MISSILE-LAUNCHERS EACH SIDE CAN HAVE. THE US IS AHEAD OF RUSSIA IN MIRV TECHNOLOGY BUT BEHIND RUSSIA IN NUMBER OF MISSILES. AND SO THE TRICK IN THIS NEGOTIATION IS TO COME UP WITH THE PROPER BALANCE BETWEEN MIRV AND MISSILES THAT BRINGS BOTH SIDES AT LEAST A MEASURE OF NUCLEAR SECURITY. ONE AMERICAN IDEA NOW IS THAT NEITHER SIDE BE ALLOWED TO HAVE MORE THAN 2,000 MISSILE LAUNCHERS. THE NEGOTIATION IS APPARENTLY GOING ROUGH AND THE SOVIET RESPONSE IS NOT YET KNOWN. BUT BREZHNEV IS APPARENTLY DRIVING A VERY HARD BARGAIN, SO HARD THAT KISSINGER AT ONE POINT HAD TO WARN THE SOVIET LEADER NOT TO EXPECT UNILATERAL CONCESSIONS FROM THE US."

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